2-18-69

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
CRIMINAL DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXX (B) REL:jms

Please advise if you desire a copy of enclosed furnished Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE - GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

RCMP
GRC 6880

C 237
REV. 1-4-66

OTHER FILE REFERENCES: REF. AUTRES DOSSIERS:	DIVISION "C"	DATE 15 NOV 68	RCMP FILE REFERENCES: REF. DOSSIERS GRC: 68GIS 790-107 68C 190-19 68HQ 791-Q-60
	SUB-DIVISION - SOUS-DIVISION		
	DETACHMENT - DÉTACHEMENT Montreal G.I.S.		

RE:
OBJET:

Martin Luther KING -
Murder of:
- Assistance to F.B.I. -

1. Further to the memorandum of the A/Officer i/c C.I.B. dated in Ottawa the 28 OCT 68, the hotel mentioned is none other than the Harkey Apartments where RAY resided whilst in Montreal. This building concept is fairly large and is situated at the corner of Hâvre and Notre-Dame East Street in Montreal. The Acapulco Club is part of this building and has its main entrance on Hâvre Street while the Harkey Apartments have its main entrance around the corner of Notre-Dame Street.

2. Further to verbal instructions received from Insp. DUCHESNEAU, enquiries conducted at the Neptune Tavern, 121 rue des Commissaires West, have revealed the following.

3. Mr. Eugène GAUDET, co-owner of Neptune Tavern, residing at Rang St-Dominique, Les Cèdres, Comté de Soulanges, P.Q., telephone 452-4438, was interviewed and stated being fully aware of newspaper articles which had been written in respect to RAY's activities in Montreal. He could not however identify photographs of RAY as having been a cliant at his tavern nor could he offer any information on the blond latin named RAOUL.

4. Mr. Arthur MORIN, day waiter at Neptune Tavern during the period concerned and residing at 1827 St-André Street, Montreal, P.Q., was interviewed and could not offer any information of value relative to RAY and one RAOUL ever having been customers at the Neptune Tavern. From his records, Mr. GAUDET was able to supply the name of a former waiter who had been employed on the evening shift at the tavern during the Summer of 1967. This former waiter was identified as Michel BACON, 2823A Ontario East, SIN [redacted]. Attempts to interview BACON at 2823A Ontario East, have revealed that BACON is no longer residing there and it was not possible to obtain any information as to his present address or employer. It was however, learned that BACON was believed to still be in the Greater Montreal area. Enquiries have been instituted through the regional UIC Office in Montreal in view of locating BACON through his present employer.

15 NOV 68

5. Jean-Marie CHARRON, co-owner of Neptune Tavern residing at 5100 Boulevard Pie IX, Apt. 104, Montreal, P.Q., was interviewed and he stated that at approximately 6:30pm on one of the last days of October 1968, two (2) men who had identified themselves as newspaper reporters from U.S.A. had presented themselves at the tavern and had exhibited to CHARRON two (2) pictures one of which, they stated being the photograph of James Earl RAY, and the other being a photograph of RAOUL.

. . . . 2

ENCLOSURE

RE:
OBJET.

Martin Luther KING -
Murder of: -
- Assistance to F.B.I. -

One of the newspapermen who spoke broken French, enquired from CHARRON if either RAY or RAOUL had ever been customers at his tavern. CHARRON states having declined to make any identification either of RAY or RAOUL.

6. The picture of RAY which was in possession of these two (2) men was identical to the last photograph which was obtained prior to RAY's arrest. The dress and tie were similar with the exception that RAY was holding the lapel of his suit jacket with his right hand. The picture of RAOUL was a full-face picture, passport-type photograph which showed RAOUL to have blond curly hair, age approximately 30 years old, wearing a white shirt, a tie, and a dress jacket. CHARRON stated to us that from our photographs of RAY, he could not state whether or not RAY had ever been a customer at the Neptune Tavern. The same applied in the case of RAOUL. One comment made by CHARRON was to the effect that the photograph of RAOUL which had been exhibited by the American newspapermen indicated to him that RAOUL was not a sailor. One of the newspapermen also made mention that RAY was in possession of a Neptune Tavern matchbook which served to indicate to them that RAY could have visited the tavern.

7. The newspapermen who spoke to CHARRON were described as follows: First - Spoke English like an American, height 5'6", built small, hair blond, spoke broken French. Second - Spoke like an American, approximately 6' tall, thick dark hair, wore a band indicating that he was married.

8. Please find attached hereto, photostat copies of a newspaper article which appeared in "The Gazette", Montreal, P.Q., on the 12 NOV 68.

9. In an attempt to corroborate CHARRON's statement to the effect that a photograph of a man reported to be RAOUL had been exhibited to him, further enquiries will be conducted in the Montreal area. Some of the persons who were interviewed earlier during the course of this investigation will be contacted in a view of ascertaining if they have any information pertaining to RAOUL.

D.D. 28-11-68

Sgt.
(E.J.C. Mager) #17440
Montreal G.I.S.

(JIB PROULX) S/SGT.
N.C.O. I/C G.I.S.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE - GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

RCMP-GRC 6882

C 237
REV. 1-4-66

OTHER FILE REFERENCES: REF. AUTRES DOSSIERS:	DIVISION "C"	DATE 24 JAN 69	RCMP FILE REFERENCES: REF. DOSSIERS GRC: 68GIS 790-107 68C 790-19 68HQ 791-Q-60
	SUB-DIVISION - SOUS-DIVISION		
	DETACHMENT - DÉTACHEMENT Montreal G.I.S.		

4

RE:
OBJET:

Martin Luther KING -
Murder of:
- Assistance to F.B.I. -

N.R.

Markin

23 JAN 69

1. Further to paragraph 2 of PCR dated 12 DEC 68, J.M. CHARRON was interviewed and cannot recall ever having seen the person on the composite drawing which was forwarded to this point appended to the memorandum dated in Ottawa, 3 DEC 68, from the A/Officer i/c C.I.B. CHARRON was certain that this was not the picture shown to him by newspaper reporters, (ref: our PCR dated 15 NOV 68, paragraph 5).

2. Further to memorandum dated in Montreal, 31 DEC 68, from the A/Officer i/c C.I.B., the pictures of HUIE and HANSEN were also viewed by CHARRON and no identification could be made. Photographs attached to this report for retention on Division file.

E

24 JAN 69

3. The composite drawing mentioned above was also viewed by Mr. H.H. RITCHIE of the Mariner's House, Montreal, with negative results.

4. The Montreal Star editions for January 20 to January 23rd inclusive, contain a four-part series of articles on RAY. These articles will also be found attached for retention on Division file. It will be noted that the edition dated January 20, 1969, shows the picture of the author of these articles, Bernard GAVZER. CHARRON was also shown this photograph and no identification was made.

5. At the present time, all avenues of investigation have been exhausted at this point and have been unsuccessful in establishing whether or not RAOUL is fact or fiction.

6. In view of the above, this file will be held in abeyance pending the outcome of RAY's trial or receipt of other request for investigation by the F.B.I.

S.U.I.

E.J.C. Mager
Sgt.
(E.J.C. Mager) #17440
Montreal G.I.S.

(JIB PROULX) S/SGT.
N.C.O. I/C G.I.S.

REC-47 ~~5538~~

12 FEB 6 1969

RE:
OBJET: Martin Luther KING -
Murder of:
- Assistance to F.B.I. -

The COMMISSIONER, Ottawa:

Your: 68HQ-791-Q-60

1. FORWARDED for your information. Photographs mentioned in para. 2 above are retained on file here.

2. The four-parts series article written by GABZER are also being retained on file as no doubt you are in possession of copies of same.

3. All avenues of investigation now appear to have been covered in this case and your instructions will be awaited as to what further action is to be taken.

S.U.I.

MONTREAL
29-1-69

J.R. Duchesneau, Insp.,
A/Officer i/c C.I.B.

MURKIN
Dissemination
Folder

2-14-69

CRIMINAL DIVISION
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
2-8-69

XXXXX a memorandum
New Orleans

XXX (B) REL:jms

Please advise if you desire a copy of the enclosed furnished Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee.

2-14-69

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
CRIMINAL DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXX a memorandum
New Orleans

2-8-69

XXX (B) REL:jms

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New Orleans, Louisiana
February 8, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

JAMES EARL RAY

Mr. Jerry Cohen, Los Angeles Times news reporter in New Orleans, Louisiana, residing at the Cochetta Motel, Room 216, Telephone 822-1560, New Orleans, Louisiana, telephonically advised he had contacted the Los Angeles Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and had been referred to the New Orleans Office of the FBI.

Cohen advised that he and Dave Lawson of Los Angeles, California, who is also a reporter of the Los Angeles Times, had obtained from Charles Stein a telephone number within one week after the arrest of James Earl Ray.

Cohen stated that Dave Lawson had made all the notes of the conversation with Stein but that as he, Cohen, recalls it, Stein showed Lawson a piece of paper which contained a telephone number and that Lawson had copied the telephone number from Stein's piece of paper into Lawson's note.

When Stein questioned Ray concerning this telephone number, Ray had said this is where Ray got his weather report.

Cohen stated that Stein two or three days after talking to Cohen and Lawson had made a call to New Orleans and had determined this number was a number for Troop B of the Louisiana State Police located in the Greater New Orleans area.

Cohen stated that neither he nor Lawson had furnished this telephone number to the Los Angeles Office of the FBI and when questioned as to whether or not this was an oversight advised that subconsciously it had been forgotten with the hope it might materialize into a good story.

Cohen advised that he did not have the telephone number with him but had made a contact in New Orleans while here to attend the Clay Shaw trial, who had determined that there was a Louisiana State Trooper at Troop B named Raul V. Esquivel.

Cohen advised he had no further information concerning this number but that Lawson would have more complete and accurate information from his notes.

A review of the New Orleans indices show an investigation was conducted in the case captioned "TROOPER RAUL VICTOR ESQUIVEL, LOUISIANA STATE POLICE, FERDINAND JOSEPH HORIO, JR. - VICTIM, CIVIL RIGHTS." Esquivel in 1964 was described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	November 17, 1926
Place of Birth	British, Honduras
Employment	Louisiana State Police, Troop B, Metairie, Louisiana
Length of Employment	Seven years
Residence	4524 Parsimmon Street, Metairie, Louisiana

R. L. Polk's New Orleans City Director for 1968 lists telephone number 482-5751 to State Police Department Headquarters, Troop B. This number was dialed February 6, 1969, and the trooper answering the phone stated "State Police Department Headquarters" and then upon inquiry stated that it was Troop B.

The current New Orleans Telephone Directory lists telephone number 524-6446 to the Provincial Motel, 1024 Chartres Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. The Provincial Motel is where Ray stayed in New Orleans in December, 1967.

Lieutenant Colonel Ben F. Ragusa, Assistant Superintendent, Louisiana State Police (LSP), Baton Rouge, Louisiana, advised that Trooper 1st Class Raul Victor Esquivel is assigned to LSP Troop B at New Orleans, Louisiana. He advised that in August of 1967 Trooper Esquivel was at that time also assigned to Troop B at New Orleans. He advised that Trooper Esquivel worked as follows during the month of August, 1967:

August 1, 2, and 3: on duty; 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

August 4: day off

August 5: on duty; 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

August 6 and 7: off duty due to a death in his family

August 8 and 9: on duty; 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

August 10: off duty

August 11 through 23: on duty; 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

August 24: off duty

August 25 and 26: on duty; 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

August 27: off duty

August 28, 29, and 30: on duty; 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

August 31: off duty

Ragusa advised that during August, 1967, Trooper Esquivel was assigned to duties in different areas of the Troop B LSP area as he was filling in for other troopers on their days off. He advised that during August, 1967, Trooper Esquivel worked in the New Orleans area.

JAMES EARL RAY

Ragusa advised that on March 22, 1968, Trooper Esquivel worked an eight-hour shift on that date.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency: it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2/8/69

AIRTEL AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)(P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re New Orleans teletype 2/6/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies and for Los Angeles and Memphis two copies each of a self-explanatory LHM.

3 - Bureau (Encs 6)(RM)
2 - Los Angeles (44-1574)(Encs 2)(RM)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(Encs 2)(RM)
2 - New Orleans
EJC/jpb
(9)

MURKIN Dissemination Folder 1S

February 12, 1969

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ATTENTION: Mr. D. Robert Owen

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXX a memorandum
ATLANTA

2/6/69

XXX (B) REL/hdc

2 Copies of Report

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 2/6/69

Transmit the following in ______________________
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-438794)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (100-5718)

SUBJECT: COMINFIL OF SCLC
IS - C

G C Moore
PR

Enclosed for the Bureau is original and eight copies of an LHM, for New York one copy and for Philadelphia one copy of LHM.

Source referred to in the enclosed LHM is AT 1387-R information from whom must be classified confidential.

Source utilized to characterize JAMES BEVEL is CG 6905-S.

R. Long

③ - Bureau (RM) (Encs. 9) ENCLOSURE
1 - New York (RM) (Enc. 1)
1 - Philadelphia (RM) (Enc. 1)
4 - Atlanta (1 - 100-5718)
(1 - 170-290A)
(1 - 157-257) (R. ABERNATHY)
(1 - 157-656) (J. BEVEL)

AGS/jah
(9)

AGENCY: ACSI, [illegible], OSI:SEC. SER:
Crim Div [illegible] ISD CRD [illegible] IDIU
DATE FORW: 2/11/69
HOW FORW: RLS
BY: Ceglia

C. C. - Bishop ICC AT x 4/11 8 269

2 FEB 7 1969

RAC. INT. SEC.

Approved: ______________________ Sent ______________ M Per ______________
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

Atlanta, Georgia

February 6, 1969

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMUNIST INFILTRATION
OF
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

On January 31, 1969, a confidential source advised he had learned a number of members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Executive Staff were surprised at the recent public declarations of James Bevel, Director, Nonviolent Education, SCLC, regarding the innocence of James Earl Ray, indicted for the murder of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., former President, SCLC. These officials were also somewhat bewildered by the contradictory statements made to the news media by Ralph D. Abernathy, President, SCLC, in regard to Ray and Bevel's declarations.

When Bevel made his initial statement concerning Ray on January 18, 1969, he did so without prior consultation with Abernathy or the SCLC Executive Staff. Subsequently, Bevel sought the support of Abernathy and SCLC.

Bevel requested that three major points be considered by SCLC in reaching a conclusion to support his position regarding Ray. First, if Negro people are to prove they are nonviolent and SCLC is to prove it is nonviolent then condemnation of Ray cannot be pursued by the Negro or SCLC. Second, SCLC has not supported the theory that Reverend King's death was the work of one man but has subscribed to the proposition it was the result of a conspiracy in which "the establishment" played a major part. Therefore to permit one man to suffer would be a great injustice. Third, since Reverend King's death was the result of this conspiracy posterity must know that Ray was condemned by "the establishment" and that the Negro had nothing to do with the matter.

- -

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CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

ENCLOSURE

COMMUNIST INFILTRATION

As of the end of January, 1969, Abernathy intended that he and the SCLC Executive Staff would shortly examine Bevel's points and endeavor to reach a clear cut understanding with Bevel as to his position concerning Ray. Abernathy also contemplated impressing Bevel with the necessity of henceforth avoiding statements implicating SCLC without prior consultation with the organization.

While Abernathy generally respects Bevel's intelligence, he is acutely aware that Bevel is very independent and frequently speaks before thinking. Abernathy therefore feels Bevel's judgement cannot be relied upon.

With reference to the "evidence" which Bevel has indicated in public statements he would utilize to defend Ray, he had not, as of the end of January, 1969, apprised Abernathy, or SCLC staff members, of any details. Most SCLC staff members were inclined to suspect that in this regard Bevel was "just talking" or that his use of the word "evidence" was actually an interpretation of the idea that Reverend King's death was brought about by "the establishment".

JAMES BEVEL

BEVEL, in early March, 1966 was observed to be present at the offices of the West Side W.E.B. DuBois Club in Chicago (DCC). Discussion took place at this time centering around reaction to a recent notification that the Attorney General of the United States intended to label the DuBois Clubs as a Communist front. BEVEL, in conversation, stated that he would have ignored this notification, and kept about the work in which he was engaged. He felt that if the DuBois Clubs have a real program of help for the people, then people would answer for the clubs despite any labels applied to them.

Most present agreed that the attack on the DuBois Clubs was a part of the plan by the "establishment" to undermine the civil rights movement. They felt that the recent hearings into Klan activities in this country was only a beginning which would lead to a full attack on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the real target. One of those present stated during the course of this discussion that he was not a Communist, and to this BEVEL was overheard to reply that every thinking American should be. He stated that Negroes have not begun to read yet, but when they do, they will all be socialists.

1

W. E. B. DU BOIS CLUBS OF CHICAGO DCC

On May 3, 1965, a source advised that on June 30, 1964, a group of young people who attended the founding convention of the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA) met in Chicago and adopted a statement of purpose and constitution forming the DCC as an affiliate of the National DCA.

A second source advised on May 1, 1967, that DCA chartered clubs in the Chicago area are the West Side DCC and the North Side DCC, neither of which currently maintain a headquarters. There is no central headquarters for the DCC and there are no unchartered clubs in this area.

The second source advised that the majority of DCC members are also members of the CP.

During the past year DCC activity has been almost nonexistent.

1

W. E. B. DU BOIS CLUBS OF AMERICA (DCA)

A source has advised that on October 26-27, 1963, a conference of members of the Communist Party (CP), including national functionaries, met in Chicago, Illinois, for the purpose of setting in motion forces for the establishment of a new national Marxist-oriented youth organization which would hunt for the most peaceful transition to socialism. These delegates were told that it would be reasonable to assume that the young socialists attracted into this new organization would eventually pass into the CP itself.

A second source has advised that the founding convention for the new youth organization was held June 19-21, 1964, at 150 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, at which time the name W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA) was adopted. Approximately 500 delegates from throughout the United States attended this convention. The aims of this organization, as set forth in the preamble of the constitution, are, "It is our belief that this nation can best solve its problems in an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence, complete disarmament and true freedom for all peoples of the world, and that these solutions will be reached mainly through the united efforts of all working people allied in the unity of Negroes and other minorities with whites. We further fully recognize that the greatest threat to American democracy comes from the racist and right wing forces in coalition with the most reactionary sections of the economic power structure, using the tool of anti-Communism to divide and destroy the unified struggle of the working people."

Over the Labor Day weekend, 1965, the DCA held a conference in Chicago, Illinois, and a new slate of officers was elected to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the DCA. Since Labor Day, 1965 identities of those serving of the NEC has varied;

however, according to a third source as of May, 1966, thirteen of the fifteen members of the NEC were members of the CP in the San Francisco Bay area.

As of May, 1966, the headquarters of the DCA was located at 1830 Fell Street, San Francisco, California.

FD-323 (Rev. 11-29-61)

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Atlanta, Georgia
February 6, 1969

Title	COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Character	INTERNAL SECURITY - COMMUNIST
Reference	Memorandum prepared at Atlanta, dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 2/6/69

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(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-438794)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (100-5718)

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IS - C

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(1 - 170-290A)
(1 - 157-257) (R. ABERNATHY)
(1 - 157-656) (J. BEVEL)

R. Long

AGS/jah
(9)

AGENCY: ACSI, [redacted], OSI; SEC. SER:
Crim Div [redacted] ISD CRD IDIU
DATE FORW: 2/11/69
HOW FORW: RIS
BY: ceg/ci

C. C. - Bishop ICC AT 4/4/71 8 069 TP

2 FEB 7 1969

RAC. INT. SEC.

Approved: ______________________ Sent ______________ M Per ______________
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia

February 6, 1969

CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNAL SECURITY - C

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W. E. B. DU BOIS CLUBS OF AMERICA (DCA)

A source has advised that on October 26-27, 1963, a conference of members of the Communist Party (CP), including national functionaries, met in Chicago, Illinois, for the purpose of setting in motion forces for the establishment of a new national Marxist-oriented youth organization which would hunt for the most peaceful transition to socialism. These delegates were told that it would be reasonable to assume that the young socialists attracted into this new organization would eventually pass into the CP itself.

A second source has advised that the founding convention for the new youth organization was held June 19-21, 1964, at 150 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, at which time the name W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America (DCA) was adopted. Approximately 500 delegates from throughout the United States attended this convention. The aims of this organization, as set forth in the preamble of the constitution, are, "It is our belief that this nation can best solve its problems in an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence, complete disarmament and true freedom for all peoples of the world, and that these solutions will be reached mainly through the united efforts of all working people allied in the unity of Negroes and other minorities with whites. We further fully recognize that the greatest threat to American democracy comes from the racist and right wing forces in coalition with the most reactionary sections of the economic power structure, using the tool of anti-Communism to divide and destroy the unified struggle of the working people."

Over the Labor Day weekend, 1965, the DCA held a conference in Chicago, Illinois, and a new slate of officers was elected to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the DCA. Since Labor Day, 1965 identities of those serving of the NEC has varied;

however, according to a third source as of May, 1966, thirteen of the fifteen members of the NEC were members of the CP in the San Francisco Bay area.

As of May, 1966, the headquarters of the DCA was located at 1830 Fell Street, San Francisco, California.

FD-323 (Rev. 11-29-61)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Atlanta, Georgia

February 6, 1969.

Title COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - COMMUNIST

Reference Memorandum prepared at Atlanta, dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Murk[illegible] Dissemination Folder

February 3, 1969

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXXXX a memorandum
ATLANTA

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
1/31/69

XXX (B) REL?hdc

February 3, 1969

CRIMINAL DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXXXX a memorandum
ATLANTA

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
1/31/69

XXX (B) REL /hdc

1/31/69

AIRTEL AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN

Re Atlanta teletype to Bureau and Memphis dated 1/30/69, and Bureau telephone call to Atlanta, 1/30/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five (5) copies of LHM and to Memphis are two (2) copies of LHM captioned "ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, APRIL 4, 1968".

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 5) (RM)
2 - Memphis (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Atlanta
ORH:vsc
(7)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia

January 31, 1969

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
APRIL 4, 1968

The January 29, 1969, edition of "The Washington Post" newspaper contained an article which quoted Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as indicating in a news conference that a conspiracy exists with regard to the assassiantion of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 30, 1969, Rev. Abernathy was interviewed by a Special Agent of the FBI at Atlanta, Georgia, and the results are set forth on the following page.

- -

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date January 31, 1969

Rev. RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, 330 Auburn Avenue, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, telephonically advised with regards to his statement to the press, which was quoted in "The Washington Post" newspaper, Washington, D. C., on January 29, 1969, that what he told the press was that he believed in view of the assassiantions of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, ROBERT F. KENNEDY, MEDGAR EVERS and MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., there would be an indication to him that there may be a conspiracy among the forces of evil to do away with any young militant who stands for righteousness. Rev. ABERNATHY advised that he has no specific information or other evidence that a conspiracy exists with respect to the specific assassination of Dr. KING. He advised that the statement made to the press on January 29, 1969, in which he referred to a conspiracy concerned the assassination of all of the above-mentioned persons. In regard to those assassinations he made it clear he has no evidence indicating a conspiracy and it is only his belief or fear on his part that such a conspiracy does exist. He stated he has no idea what individuals or forces would be involved in such a conspiracy.

Rev. ABERNATHY advised that several months ago Rev. JAMES LAWSON, Minister of the Centenary Methodist Church at Memphis, Tennessee, told him, Rev. ABERNATHY, that it was Rev. LAWSON's understanding that the day before the assassination of Dr. KING, two Negro firemen, who had been assigned to the fire station across the street from the motel where Dr. KING was killed, were moved to another fire station. According to Rev. LAWSON that move left the fire station unmanned and they were moved to a station which was already fully manned and equipped. Also according to Rev. LAWSON, a Negro policeman, who worked the beat which included the motel where Dr. KING was killed, was moved off of that beat the day Dr. KING was killed, April 4, 1968, but prior to the killing.

2*

On 1/30/69 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA O. RICHARD HAMILTON :vsc Date dictated 1/31/69

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

MURKIN
Dissemination
Folder

February 3, 1968

CRIMINAL DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXX (B) REL/hdc

NOTE: Please advise if you desire a copy of the enclosed furnished Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee.

February 3, 1969

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXX ([illegible]) REL/hdc

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
January 31, 1969

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
Telephone Operators and
Busby's Motors,
Nashville, Tennessee;
R. M. GAINES - Complainant;
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On January 25, 1969, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C., received a telegram from R. M. Gaines, 2006 Arena Place, Nashville, Tennessee, which stated "Discrimination against black people of Nashville by telephone operators and Busby's Motors of Nashville."

At 7:10 A.M. on January 28, 1969, R. M. Gaines, 2006 Arena Place, Nashville, Tennessee, telephonically contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Washington, D. C., and stated he was investigating the death of Dr. Martin Luther King. He stated he had evidence and photographs to support his conclusion that King had not been killed by a white man. Gaines said he could be located at 1056 College Street, Memphis, Tennessee. He said he is employed by the Mahalia Jackson Chicken System, 705 South Parkway East, Memphis, Tennessee.

On January 28, 1969, Mr. Harold Jones, Executive Vice-President, Mahalia Jackson Chicken System, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that Robert Gaines has been employed by that company since about August, 1968, and that because of Gaines' drinking problem he has been on a leave of absence since January 19, 1969, at which time Gaines became intoxicated and began to annoy other officers in the company with his telephone calls.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
Telephone Operators, Etc.

On January 28, 1969, Gaines was located at 1056 College Street, Memphis, by a Special Agent of the FBI. Gaines was found holding a half empty bottle of whiskey and gave every indication of being highly intoxicated. He was sufficiently coherent to deny having any evidence concerning the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Records of Central State Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee, reflect that Robert Gaines entered that hospital on October 24, 1966, having been brought to the hospital by Nashville Police after he had fired a gun through the roof of his home. He was diagnosed as having an acute schizophrenic reaction, paranoid type, and he was found to be suffering from chronic alcoholism. He was granted a thirty day furlough from the hospital on January 6, 1968, but never returned to the hospital.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1/31/69

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-2147) (C)

SUBJECT: UNSUB;
Telephone Operators and
Busby's Motors,
Nashville, Tennessee;
R. M. GAINES - Complainant;
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ReButel 1/27/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 6 copies of an LHM concerning captioned matter.

Inasmuch as the complainant has a mental condition, as well as being a chronic alcoholic, no further action is being taken.

④ - Bureau (Encs. 6)
(2-44-38861)
2 - Memphis
1 - 44-2147
1 - 44-1987
JCH:jap
(6)

Murk Dissemination Folder

1-29-69

CRIMINAL DIVISION
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXX (B) REL:jms

NOTE: Please advise if you desire a copy of the enclosed furnished Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee.

1-29-69

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
CRIMINAL DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXX (B) REL:jms

NOTE: Please advise if you desire a copy of the enclosed furnished Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1/23/69

Transmit the following in ________________
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL ________________
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (44-1368)(P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Philadelphia teletypes dated 1/19/69 and 1/21/69.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM titled as above.

Copies are being furnished locally to MI, NISO, OSI, Secret Service, and USA, EDPa.

One copy of this LHM is being forwarded Atlanta for information since Atlanta is OO in SCLC. Two copies are being furnished Memphis since Memphis is OO MURKIN.

This LHM is classified confidential to protect identity of PH 897-R since PH 897-R and one other individual were present when BEVEL made this statement. PH 897-R continues to furnish excellent information concerning racial and security matters.

Source utilized in the LHM is PH 897-R.

When interviewed on 1/21/69, agents had to wait 30 minutes for BEVEL because BEVEL was holding a meeting in the next room.

⑤ - Bureau (RM) (Encs. 11)
  3 - 44-38861
  ① - 100-438794 (SCLC)
  1 - 157-10808 (JAMES BEVEL)
1 - Atlanta (SCLC) (Info) (RM)(Enc. 1)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(MURKIN)RM) (Encs. 2)
5 - Philadelphia
  1 - 44-1987 (MURKIN)
  1 - 100-47194 (SCLC)
  1 - 157-1214 (RACIAL DISTURBANCES - MAJOR URBAN AREA)
  1 - 157-2979 (JAMES BEVEL)
  1 - 170-53 (PH 897-R)

CARBON COPY

EMC:kpb (13)

Approved: ________________ Sent ________________ M Per ________________
Special Agent in Charge

For the information of Atlanta, BEVEL is currently employed at the Health and Welfare Council, Inc., 1428 Columbia Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa., telephone CE 2-9911.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

January 23, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Reverend James Bevel was interviewed at his residence, 919 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., on January 21, 1969. The following are the results of this interview:

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Date 1/23/69

Reverend JAMES BEVEL was interviewed for ten minutes at his residence. He stated he was extremely busy as he had appointments through 11:00 p.m. that day. While the interview was in progress, a woman asked BEVEL if he could speak to a member of the press. BEVEL told her to tell the person on the telephone he was tied up until 11:00 p.m.

BEVEL stated he had proof of the innocence of JAMES EARL RAY in connection with the murder of his good friend Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. BEVEL referred to KING as one of his closest and dearest friends. BEVEL stated that since the FBI was connected with the prosecution and he was involved with the defense, he felt he should not furnish this information.

It was pointed out to BEVEL that the FBI is an investigative agency and does not prosecute anyone. It was also pointed out to BEVEL that the FBI is as interested in proving a person's innocence as proving a person's guilt. BEVEL was advised the FBI was interested in obtaining and proving all facts possible during any investigation.

BEVEL stated he sent a telegram to RAY on Saturday, January 18, 1969, and as of the date of the interview, he had received no answer to his telegram. BEVEL stated in connection with this he planned to call PERCY FOREMAN, Attorney for RAY on the night of January 21, 1969, and offer his services in connection with RAY's defense.

BEVEL stated he would telephone the contacting agents on January 22, 1969, and advise if FOREMAN accepted his offer. BEVEL stated if FOREMAN does not accept his offer to aid the defense, he, BEVEL, plans to drop the entire matter as he feels he has no moral obligation towards RAY to produce his evidence of RAY's innocence if his offer of help is refused.

It was pointed out to BEVEL that if he had evidence of RAY's innocence, it should be brought to the attention of the court. BEVEL again stated he would do so only if he was allowed to be part of RAY's defense.

BEVEL stated that at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING

CONFIDENTIAL

On 1/21/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. 2 File # Philadelphia 44-1368

SA RALPH C. HAMNER and
by SA EDWARD M. COLE EMC:kpb Date dictated 1/22/69

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was shot at the Loraine Motel in Memphia, he was standing on the ground underneath the balcony where KING was shot.

JAMES EARL RAY
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

On January 22, 1969, Special Agent Edward M. Cole telephonically attempted to contact Reverend Bevel at approximately 2:30 p.m. The person answering stated Reverend Bevel would not return until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m.

On January 21, 1969, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised he with others spoke with Bevel concerning Bevel's statement on the innocence of James Earl Ray. This group, including the informant, are considered "militants" by Bevel. During the discussion with Bevel it was pointed out to Bevel that the general feeling of the militants is that Ray was guilty of shooting Reverend King and that Bevel should furnish what evidence he has or keep quiet.

Bevel told this group he has no evidence but that he feels the "system" is killing a man worth nothing while this man actually killed a greater man. Bevel stated that if he is allowed to defend Ray he, Bevel, will bring out everything that the "system" did to cause the death of King. Bevel also stated he feels this is a method to rejuvenate Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Philadelphia, as SCLC has fallen off to almost nothing in Philadelphia. In connection with this, Bevel stated he is to receive a check by Western Union from SCLC, Atlanta, for $500.

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FD-323 (Rev. 11-29-61)

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 23, 1969

Title	JAMES EARL RAY; MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM
Character	
Reference	Memorandum dated and captioned as above at Philadelphia, Pa.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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Minor Dissemination Folder

1-29-69

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
CRIMINAL DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXX (B) REL:jms

NOTE: Please advise if you desire a copy of the enclosed be furnished Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee.

1-29-69

CRIMINAL DIVISION
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXX (B) REL:jms

NOTE: Please advise if you desire a copy of the enclosed be furnished Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee.